



## Health MILESTONES 2003

*Rod Betit, Executive Director  
Dr. A. Richard Melton, Deputy Director  
Scott D. Williams, M.D., Deputy Director  
(Williams was appointed the UDOH  
Executive Director in November 2003.)*

### **UDOH Announces New Program to Connect People with Affordable Prescriptions**

**December 9, 2003** - The Utah Department of Health (UDOH) launched a new resource, RxConnect Utah, to connect people with programs to help them get affordable medicine. One in ten Utahns say they have gone without medicine in the past year because it was too expensive, according to the 2003 Health Status Survey. RxConnect Utah connects people with programs offered through pharmaceutical companies. Eligibility for assistance varies by pharmaceutical company, but all programs consider health insurance status and income. RxConnect Utah can be reached by calling toll-free, 1-866-221-0265, or visiting [www.health.utah.gov/rxconnectutah](http://www.health.utah.gov/rxconnectutah).

### **Access to Care Improved for Goshute Tribe in Ibaph**

**December 2003** – Medicaid's Health Clinics of Utah signed a contract to provide medical services to the Goshute Tribe living in the Ibaph area. Once a month, staff from Health Clinic's of Utah will travel to Ibaph to treat people in their community. Ibaph is south of Wendover, Utah along the western part of the state.

### **Health Clinics and the Christmas Box House Bring Health Care to Kids**

**December 2003** – Medicaid's Health Clinics of Utah in Ogden have partnered with The Christmas Box House in Ogden. Health Clinics of Utah staff provide physical exams for foster care children staying at the house. This service allows easier access to medical care for children going through a difficult time.

### **Utah Cares Provides Information 24/7**

**November 14, 2003** - Governor Olene Walker launched the 24/7 website, "Utah Cares," to help families and individuals in need find needed services. Through this website, local resources including health information and programs, as well as food, clothing and housing can be found quickly. As part of the Walker Work Plan, the website is not only a way of working smarter through online government, but it also maximizes human potential. The Utah Department of Health (UDOH) has been an important partner in the collaborative development of Utah Cares. Utah Cares will help the UDOH better serve the public, by providing information and referral to health services, 24 hours a day, statewide. Utah Cares is free and confidential and was built in partnership with the UDOH, Department of Human Services and the Department of Workforce Services.

### **Local Health Districts Receive \$166K in Physical Activity Infrastructure Funding**

**November 2003** - In November, all twelve local health districts (LHDs) submitted proposals to increase opportunities for physical activity in their community by providing the necessary resources. The UDOH Heart Disease & Stroke Prevention Program awarded a total of \$166,000 in funding to all twelve LHDs to fund a variety of projects, including the installation of a bridge to link the Ogden River Parkway Trail network in Weber-Morgan, and converting an old senior's center into a community recreation center in Wasatch. In addition, each LHD received funding to install permanent maps at the start of their Legacy Gold Medal Miles.

## ***Utah Department of Health – 2003 Milestones***

### **Intensive Quit Line Services Extended to All Utahns**

**November 2003** - In November 2003, the Tobacco Prevention and Control Program was pleased to extend these services to all Utah tobacco users who want to quit, regardless of insurance status. All Quit Line services will continue to be available to all Utahns as long as funding levels permit. In the past, the Utah Tobacco Quit Line offered Quit Kits, referrals and one brief counseling intervention to all Utahns who desired to quit using tobacco. However, the Quit Line's intensive counseling program, to which Quit Line counselors call the participant back for four scheduled follow-ups and offer nicotine replacement therapy as appropriate, was only available to uninsured and Medicaid-insured clients.

### **Utah Walks Launches Online Mile Tracker**

**November 2003** - After the launch of the Utah Walks media campaign in September 2003 at the Gallivan Center, the Utah Walks mile tracker went online. Utah residents can sign up as individuals or in groups, such as cities, counties, schools, and worksites, to track their daily walking mileage and engage in some healthy competition. The goal is to “Walk to Mars,” or a total of 34 million miles. As of August 9, 2004, Utahns have walked a total of 1,928,688 miles.

### **UDOH Recommends Second Trimester Teeth Cleaning to Prevent Premature Birth**

**October 29, 2003** - The Utah Department of Health's Family Dental Plan wants pregnant women to know that receiving dental cleanings in the 2<sup>nd</sup> trimester can reduce their risk for having a premature baby. An intervention as simple as thorough teeth cleaning may reduce premature birth rates. In addition, the UDOH is launching the first Medicaid study in the nation to track the effectiveness of the intervention. The study includes contacting pregnant women enrolled on Medicaid who live in Salt Lake City to schedule dental appointments. Women on Medicaid who get dental exams while pregnant are compared with those who don't in the pilot study.

### **Utah Cancer Control Program Exceeds 250 Enrollees**

**October 24, 2003** - The UDOH's Utah Cancer Control Program has enrolled 251 women in the Medicaid Cancer Treatment Program. Of the 251 women enrolled, 110 of have been diagnosed with cervical cancer, which includes pre-cancerous conditions, and 141 women have been diagnosed with breast cancer. These totals reflect two years of work since the Breast and Cervical Cancer Prevention and Treatment Act of 2000 went into affect in 2001 giving states the option to provide medical assistance through Medicaid to eligible women.

### **Health Care Financing Begins Medicaid Managed Care System**

**October 18, 2003** - The Division of Health Care Financing implemented Phase One of the Medicaid Managed Care System, which incorporates the federal Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act requirements related to enrollment, premium payments and communication with Medicaid managed care plans.

### **Dr. Scott D. Williams Appointed UDOH Executive Director**

**October 8, 2003** - Governor Michael Leavitt appointed Dr. Scott Williams as the Executive Director of the UDOH. Williams fills the position vacated by Rod Betit, who served in the position since 1992. Betit accepted a position in the Alaska State Hospital and Nursing Home Association. Williams has been with the UDOH since 1993, and previously served as the Division Director for the Division of Community and Family Health Services, and most recently as a Department Deputy Director.

## ***Utah Department of Health – 2003 Milestones***

### **Weber Managed Access to Comprehensive Care Plan Implemented**

**October 6, 2003** - the UDOH implemented Weber MACS (Managed Access to Comprehensive Care) Plan, the second of Utah's Long Term Care/Managed Care Initiative Projects. The Initiative is a long-term health care service delivery model that can be individualized by community and implemented as Initiative-related projects. The decision to implement a second Initiative-related project was based on the success of FlexCare, Utah's first Initiative-related project. FlexCare was implemented in April 2000 and currently serves more than 300 residents of Salt Lake, Davis and Tooele counties. Weber MACS Plan will be administered by Weber Human Services and will serve Weber and Morgan Counties.

### **Davis and Salt Lake Counties to Begin Water Fluoridation**

**October 1, 2003** - The implementation of water fluoridation in Davis and most recently Salt Lake Counties will have a significant impact on the oral health and thereby the overall health of the residents in those counties. The US. Surgeon General has identified dental disease as the single most common chronic health problem in children. According to CDC, community water fluoridation is the most cost-effective way to prevent tooth decay. Once all communities in the two counties have completed implementation, over 50% of the state's population on public water systems will have access optimally fluoridated water.

### **Vaccines for Children Provides Influenza Vaccines**

**October 1, 2003** - The influenza vaccine became available to qualified infants and children 6 months to 18 years of age through the Vaccines for Children (VFC) Program. To qualify for the VFC Program, a person must be between the ages of birth -18 years of age and meet any of the following requirements: Enrolled in Medicaid, have no insurance or underinsured, American Indian/Alaskan Native or enrolled in Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP).

### **The Utah Cancer Control Program Receives Komen Funding**

**October 1, 2003** - the Utah Cancer Control Program received nearly \$35,000 from the Susan G. Komen Foundation Race for the cure. This funding will ensure that women who would otherwise qualify for the federally funded program by income but who are younger than age 35 and have an abnormality suspicious for cancer on clinical breast exam and no health insurance are able to receive appropriate and timely diagnostic evaluation. The use of Komen funds will enhance the overall efforts of the UDOH to decrease the death and disease from breast cancer among Utah women.

### **The “Utah Walks” Media Campaign Debuts**

**September 24, 2003** - the UDOH, the Utah Department of Transportation, 2News and Check Your Health debuted the Utah Walks campaign during the Walk the Block event at Gallivan Center Plaza. The yearlong media campaign includes television and radio spots, a website, and a colorful eight-page brochure on walking tips available through local parks and recreation offices.

### **Bureau of Maternal and Child Health Publication on Adolescent Health**

**September 23, 2003** - *How Healthy are Utah's Adolescents?: A Snapshot of Adolescent Health in Utah* was released by the UDOH's Bureau of Maternal and Child Health. The report represents a collaborative effort of programs from the Utah Department of Health, the Utah Department of Human Services, the Utah State Office of Education, and five additional organizations. The report includes information on risk and protective factors, major health-related issues, and the health status of adolescents.

## ***Utah Department of Health – 2003 Milestones***

### **Legislators Visit Schools to Stress Importance of Staying Healthy**

**September 22-26, 2003** - sixteen Gold Medal School Initiative schools received visits from their representatives in the Utah State Legislature as part of America's Legislators Back to School Week. Legislators spoke to students about the importance of staying healthy as a civic responsibility, then walked the Gold Medal Mile and ate a healthy lunch with the students.

### **First Asthma Plan Released at the Utah Asthma Summit**

**September 16, 2003** - The first Utah Asthma Plan was released at the Utah Asthma Summit. The plan was developed by experts in asthma care and those with the disease from around the state of Utah. It outlines goals, objectives, and strategies to promote "Utah communities working together to improve the quality of life for people with chronic asthma symptoms by increasing awareness, access, and education." The Utah Asthma Task Force partners are now working to implement these activities.

### **UDOH Receives \$15 Million for Bioterrorism Preparedness**

**September 11, 2003** - The UDOH was awarded \$15 million in federal funding to further enhance public health's ability to prepare for and respond to acts of bioterrorism in Utah. The UDOH and Utah's twelve local health departments were awarded \$10.9 million. Of these funds, more than \$4 million will be distributed to the local health departments based on population and need. In addition to the CDC funding, the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) has issued preliminary approval to the UDOH for a \$4.4 million grant aimed at helping hospitals and clinics develop their response capacity by increasing education, equipment and supplies.

### **Baby Your Baby Launches New Website**

**August 28, 2003** - The Baby Your Baby program launched its new and improved website ([www.babyyourbaby.org](http://www.babyyourbaby.org)). The website provides information on financial assistance during pregnancy, information on pregnancy and infant health, and links to additional resources. The new campaign messaging emphasis is to go to your health care provider before 13 weeks of pregnancy and to go back for at least 13 visits throughout pregnancy.

### **UDOH Presents Utah Patient Safety Initiative in New Jersey**

**August 20, 2003** - Utah's Patient Safety initiative continues to receive national attention as Dr. Scott Williams is asked to present to the New Jersey Patient Safety Coalition. This follows invited presentations on Utah's program during the past year in Pennsylvania, Georgia and Oregon and at several national conferences.

### **West Nile Virus Detected in Utah Mosquitoes, Chickens and Horses**

**August 15, 2003** - West Nile virus was detected in Utah in mosquitoes, chickens and horses. The UDOH led coordination with the Utah Department of Agriculture and Food, 12 Local Health Departments, local Mosquito Abatement Districts, Utah Division of Wildlife Resources, and the State Veterinary Laboratory to detect the WNV infection in Utah. This allowed targeted interventions, including mosquito control and public information and education to reduce human risk to WNV. The first human case right near the end of the mosquito season on day 593, September 19.

### **Medicaid's Bureau of Managed Health Care Makes Modifications**

**August 13, 2003** - Medicaid's Bureau of Managed Health Care modified its Medicaid managed care contracts and quality monitoring tools to include the federal requirements in the Medicaid Managed Care Final Rule. The rule established new client protections in areas such as quality

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assurance and grievance rights. These regulations were required to be implemented by August 13, 2003. This rule implemented the Medicaid managed care provisions of the Balanced Budget Act of 1997. The quality monitoring tools are used to determine managed care plans' compliance with state and federal regulations.

### **Tobacco Prevention and Control Launches QuitNet**

**August 6, 2003** - The Tobacco Prevention and Control Program launched QuitNet, an on-line service that will provide Utahns valuable quitting resources around the clock. The website combines personalized information with peer and expert support. Utah QuitNet services are free to all Utahns who want to become members. QuitNet is funded through the Tobacco Settlement Fund, provided by the Master Settlement Agreement. The service was launched with a creative teaser ad series, by the state's successful "The Truth" anti-tobacco marketing campaign.

### **Baby Watch Early Intervention and Utah Parent Center Receive Grant Funding**

**August 5, 2003** - The UDOH's Baby Watch Early Intervention "FUN" (Families United Network) parent support program gained momentum when it was included in a successful grant application by the Utah Parent Center. Interagency Outreach Training Initiative funds were awarded to the Utah Parent Center, in partnership with the Baby Watch, to develop and implement a parent leadership program for parents in early intervention programs throughout the state.

### **UDOH Begins Accepting Primary Care Network (PCN) Applications**

**August 1, 2003** - The UDOH began accepting applications for The Primary Care Network (PCN) Covered at Work. This health plan helps Utah Adults, who qualify, to pay their health insurance premium. Adults must have access to health insurance through their work, but not yet be enrolled. There are 6,000 slots available for Covered at Work participants out of PCN's overall 25,000 slots.

### **Utah Moves from 47<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup> Place for Childhood Immunizations**

**July 31, 2003** - the Utah Immunization Program announced that Utah moved from 47th place in the nation to 29th for childhood immunization levels for the basic immunization levels among two year olds. Utah also received an award for the most improved state. The new rate for Utah, released by the CDC's National Immunization Program, is 75.7%, (4:3:1:3:3), compared to the national average of 74.8%.

### **Children's Health Insurance Program Celebrates Fifth Anniversary**

**July 17, 2003** - the UDOH celebrates the fifth anniversary of Utah's Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) and the first anniversary of the Primary Care Network (PCN). These innovative programs have covered almost 78,000 Utahns who would otherwise go without health insurance. CHIP has provided health insurance for more than 61,000 Utah children and nearly 24,000 children are currently enrolled. PCN has already enrolled nearly 17,000 people who would otherwise go without health insurance.

### **Heart Disease and Stroke Prevention Program Receives Competitive Funding**

**July 1, 2003** - the Heart Disease & Stroke Prevention Program became one of only 11 states to receive competitive funding from Centers for Disease Control, Cardiovascular Health Branch. The award is an expansion on previous, smaller planning awards and will be key in implementing programs to help fight heart disease and stroke statewide.

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### **Medicaid Spenddown Threshold Increased**

**July 1, 2003** - Utah's Medicaid spenddown threshold for seniors, blind and disabled increased to 100% of the poverty level from 75%. This change significantly increases the amount of income those individuals can retain when they buy into the Medicaid program due to high Medical expenses.

### **Gold Medal School Initiative Recognizes Bonneville Elementary**

**June 3, 2003** - sixteen months after the Olympic Winter Games, the Gold Medal School Initiative (GMSI) recognized Bonneville Elementary in Salt Lake City for "medaling" in environmental and policy changes to support physical activity and nutrition in Utah schools. The program now reaches more than 50,000 students in over 100 schools, who walked almost 1.5 million miles last year alone.

### **U. S. Health and Human Services Approves Implementation of PCN**

**May 31, 2003** - the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services granted approval for implementation of the Primary Care Network (PCN) Covered At Work program. PCN Covered at Work will combine employer, employee, and state funds to help purchase private health insurance for up to 6,000 working Utahns. PCN Covered at Work, the newest addition to PCN, is an insurance premium reimbursement program for adults who qualify.

### **Truth From Youth Advertising Contest Yields 5,000 Entries**

**May 21, 2003** - thousands of students became "Defenders of Truth" by entering "The Truth from Youth Anti-tobacco Advertising Contest." Students sent in 5,000 entries and the winners' work was produced. Since the contest began six years ago, more than 36,000 youth have participated.

### **Anti-Tobacco Campaign for Native Americans Launched**

**April 30, 2003** - the Tobacco Control and Prevention Program, in collaboration with Huntsman Cancer Institute's Native American Outreach Program, launched a creative, culturally tailored tobacco education campaign targeting Native Americans who live in Utah. Designs were created, distinguishing between traditional and commercial use, for posters and billboards. The UDOH identified the need for culturally appropriate materials for the Native American population regarding tobacco use, and went through an extensive review process involving representatives from all Utah tribes.

### **Epidemiology Surveillance Hotline Launched**

**April 26, 2003** - the Bureau of Epidemiology launched a statewide 24/7 system (among state and local health departments) to assure immediate telephone response to an urgent case or outbreak, whether naturally occurring or as a result of a bioterrorist release. This number gives clinicians the ability to notify public health about a communicable disease at any time.

### **Mental Health Issues in Infants and Children Discussed**

**April 25, 2003** - the Baby Watch Early Intervention Program and the Utah Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental Disabilities (ULEND) collaborated with the Riley Child Development Center LEND program to create a distance learning module on Bright Futures in Practice: Mental Health Issues in Infants and Children. Utah hosted the module via teleconference to eight states with presentations on assessment, postpartum depression and the Utah Interagency Coordinating Council's work in developing a State Practice Model for supporting the mental health of children 0-5.

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### **UDOH Study Evaluates Stimulant Use by Utah Children to Treat ADHD**

**April 22, 2003** - Utah is within the national range of use for the rate at which stimulants are prescribed to treat children with Attention-Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), according to UDOH study. UDOH researchers found that in 2002, 4.7 percent of children ages 5-14 years in Utah received a prescription for a stimulant medication, such as Ritalin. Prescription rates for this age group in other states ranged from 1.6 to 6.5 percent with an average of 4.3 percent.

### **PIO Office Holds First UDOH Statewide Video Conferencing News Backgrounder**

**April 15, 2003** - the UDOH Office of Public Information held the Department's first statewide news backgrounder via the Public Health Video Conferencing System. The UDOH provided prevention and detection information simultaneously to 26 separate media agencies, which resulted in consistent messaging statewide and more than 45 minutes of broadcast news coverage and 12 extensive print articles. It was exciting to see prevention covered so extensively without the story being attached to a case investigation.

### **PIO Office and Epidemiology Launch West Nile Virus Education Campaign**

**April 15, 2003** - the UDOH Office of Public Information and Bureau of Epidemiology's West Nile virus program launched the first public education campaign to prevent risk of West Nile virus. The virus has not reached Utah and the UDOH worked hard to get prevention messages out through the statewide media so Utahns are aware of how to protect themselves. Posters, handouts, web resources, billboards and TV messages provide the prevention information.

### **Baby Your Baby Launches 13/13 Campaign**

**April 13, 2003** - Baby Your Baby kicked off its new 13/13 campaign on radio and television. The campaign encourages pregnant women to see their health care provider before 13th week of pregnancy and to return to the doctor at least 13 times during their pregnancy. Currently, 4 out of every 10 women in Utah do not get adequate prenatal care, which is defined as care beginning in the first trimester and having at least 13 visits throughout pregnancy.

### **Primary Care Network Enrollment Nears 14,000**

**April 10, 2003** - the Primary Care Network (PCN) is now serving nearly 14,000 applicants. This new form of health coverage is the first of its kind in the nation. PCN will remain open to eligible adults until 25,000 are covered. To date, the program has accepted almost 38,000 applications; nine percent of which were submitted online.

### **House Bill 72 Regarding Tobacco Settlement and CHIP Signed by Governor**

**April 7, 2003** - a ceremonial bill signing was held at the Governor's Gold Room to celebrate House Bill 72. House Bill 72 allocates an additional \$1.5 million of the Tobacco Master Settlement Agreement to Utah's Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP). Beginning July 1, 2003, this funding will become available to enroll approximately 4,000 additional kids on CHIP and to allow fillings and other services to treat tooth decay to be restored.

### **House Bill 212 Regarding Funding for PCN Signed by Governor**

**April 4, 2003** - a ceremonial bill signing was held at the Governor's Gold Room to celebrate House Bill 212. This bill provides \$45,000 of state funds to the UDOH. Beginning July 1, 2003, this funding will be used to reduce the Primary Care Network's enrollment fee for individuals who are eligible for General Assistance through the Department of Workforce Services.

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### **The Utah Cancer Action Network Launched**

**March 31, 2003** - the Utah Cancer Control Program in the Bureau of Health Promotion launched the Utah Cancer Action Network (UCAN). UCAN is a consortium of over 70 Utah agencies and individuals that are champions for cancer issues. A new media campaign began to promote screening for colon cancer. The campaign includes TV, radio, and print ads that focus on educating individuals age 50 and over on the importance of contacting their physician for a colon cancer screening tests. Soon after another related UCAN campaign began to prevent skin cancer. The campaign urges Utahns to use sunscreen and is targeted at parents so they apply sunscreen to their children's skin routinely.

### **UCAN Launches Skin and Colon Cancer Prevention Campaigns**

**March 30, 2003** - The UDOH's Utah Cancer Control Program and a community coalition called the Utah Cancer Action Network launched skin and colon cancer prevention campaigns. In January, 85 percent of those who had not been screened for skin cancer said the reason was they had no symptoms or were not worried about getting skin cancer. By May, that number dropped to 54 percent. In January, 38 percent of those who had not been screening for colon cancer said the reason was they did not have symptoms. The campaign quickly got the message out about the possible lack of early warning signs. The number of respondents citing "no symptoms" dropped to 13 percent in the May survey.

### **Governor and First Lady Honored by UDOH and All Kids Count**

**March 25, 2003** - Utah Governor Michael O. Leavitt and First Lady Jacalyn S. Leavitt were honored with a leadership award from the UDOH and All Kids Count for their commitment to improving the health of Utah's children through the application of information technology. All Kids Count, a program of The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation has helped foster development of immunization registries across the country and now assists state and local public health agencies, including UDOH, integrate information systems that hold information critical to improving the health of children.

### **Diabetes Program Completes Hispanic and Latino Diabetes Report**

**March 25, 2003** - The Utah Diabetes Prevention and Control Program completed the Hispanic and Latino Health in Utah: A Focus on Diabetes Report. Nearly one of 20 Hispanic or Latino adults in Utah has been diagnosed with diabetes. The report identifies gaps in diabetes management for Hispanic and Latino adults.

### **Media Availability Session Held Regarding SARS**

**March 21, 2003** - the UDOH held a media availability session responding to concerns about Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) and declared the Bureau of Epidemiology was investigating a few suspect cases. The knowledge of this disease is unclear at this time and the case definition has changed multiple times but primarily focused around travel to affected regions.

### **UDOH Immunization Program Recognized at the National Immunization Conference**

**March 17, 2003** - the UDOH Immunization Program receives an award at the National Immunization Conference for increasing the state immunization coverage by 8.5% for the basic immunization series among two-year old children since 1999. The new rate for Utah, just announced at the conference for the National Immunization Survey standards, was 74.3% (4:3:1:3:3) compared to the national average of 73.1%. Utah went from 47<sup>th</sup> in the nation to 26<sup>th</sup> in this category.



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### **Salt Lake City Hosts Cover the Uninsured Week**

**March 10-14, 2003** - Salt Lake City was one of several cities across the country to host Cover the Uninsured Week. Activities included a Town Hall Meeting, On Campus Event, Health Fair, Business Round Table, and an Interfaith Breakfast. The UDOH participated in the events of the week with presentations, materials and media messages. The UDOH provides health coverage to nearly 187,000 Utahns who may otherwise go uninsured via Medicaid, CHIP (Utah's Children's Health Insurance Program), and the Primary Care Network.

### **Bill Regarding Vending Machines in Elementary Schools Introduced**

**March 10, 2003** - during the 2003 Utah State Legislature General Session, Rep. Pat Jones sponsored House Bill 186 "Elementary Vending Machine Sales", which would allow only water, milk and 100% fruit juice to be sold in vending machines in Utah elementary schools. It was changed to a substitute bill allowing all foods but those defined by USDA as having minimal nutritional value. The bill, supported by the Alliance for Cardiovascular Health in Utah, passed the House but did not get out of rules in the Senate. A similar measure will be reintroduced next legislative session.

### **Epidemiology Facilitates Coordination to Contain SARS**

**March 6, 2003** - the Bureau of Epidemiology coordinated effective response by hospitals and local health departments in Utah that identified 8 cases of SARS and prevented any secondary transmission.

### **UDOH Restructures Medicaid Spenddown**

**March 3, 2003** - With the assistance of Rep. Becky Lockhart, the UDOH was able to restructure the spenddown provision of Medicaid. The action restored funding to continue covering the aged, blind and disabled at or below 100% of poverty. In addition, Rep. Mont Evans' work funded two employees so Medicaid could begin implementing a program that provides consumers with pharmacy and pharmaceutical company contacts and programs to obtain reduced-cost prescriptions.

### **Smallpox Vaccination for Healthcare Providers Begins**

**February 25, 2003** - Utah public health begins giving smallpox vaccinations to healthcare providers in Utah public health agencies and hospitals. A system to monitor adverse events to the vaccinations was also implemented.

### **House Bill 160 Regarding Liability Protection Signed by Governor**

**February 18, 2003** - Governor Michael O. Leavitt signed into law Rep. Marda Dillree's House Bill 160. This bill provides Utah's health care community additional liability protection as many move toward giving Smallpox vaccinations to health care response teams. This puts Utah's state and local health departments one step closer to begin giving smallpox shots. HB 160 makes these important clarifications to current law: State and local health departments have legal authority to administer the smallpox vaccine in clinics; private providers, hospitals, doctors, and nurses have authority to participate in the plan submitted by Utah and approved by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; the same public and private entities will take full advantage of the protections against liability offered by Section 304 of the Homeland Security Act; and, broadened public health ability to respond to particular disasters including a bioterrorism event.

### **Check Your Health Launches "Check Your Portions" Campaign**

**February 17, 2003** - Check Your Health launched its new campaign "Check Your Portions" on radio and television. In a new message to improve the overall health of Utahns, Check Your

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Health encourages individuals to know about and use appropriate portions for their meals. The amount of food individuals consume is increasing across Utah and the U.S. This trend is known as “portion distortion.”

### **Healthcare Financing Submits 1115 Proposal for Children’s Palliative Care**

**February 12, 2003** - the Division of Health Care Financing submitted an 1115 proposal to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services which, when approved, will allow the Department to provide palliative care services to children who are not expected to survive to adulthood. The scope of services outlined in this research and demonstration proposal are designed to support the unique needs of dying children and their families.

### **Satellite Broadcast Regarding Smallpox Vaccination Held**

**February 6, 2003** - a satellite broadcast for clinicians on the adverse events of the smallpox vaccine was produced and downlinked statewide. Viewers, especially rural doctors, were able to call in their questions and receive answers from our experts. As a follow up to this clinician training campaign, informational packets on smallpox and the vaccine were sent to 4,500 physicians and urgent care centers.

### **A Healthier You 2002 Awards Program Launched**

**February 4, 2003** - the A Healthier You 2002 Legacy Awards Program was launched for Utah worksites. This awards program recognizes the outstanding achievements of businesses in implementing employee health promotion and wellness programs, in the five health areas of physical activity, nutrition, safety, healthy behaviors, and preventive screenings/services. Enhancing healthy work environments, productivity and employee health are key components of the program. The AHY Legacy Awards program will launch in schools (spring), in communities (summer) and college campuses (fall).

### **Great Basin Public Health Leadership Institute Receives Funding**

**January 1, 2003** - The Great Basin Public Health Leadership Institute received \$40,000 in a cooperative agreement from the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to help support the development of the leadership training program. A part-time Executive Director was hired for the Institute on January 6. The program will launch in the spring of 2004.

This list will be updated monthly and is available at [www.health.utah.gov](http://www.health.utah.gov)  
Send updates to [Jkettering@utah.gov](mailto:Jkettering@utah.gov)